

**SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
(PUBLIC PARTICIPATION)**

December 5, 2006

7:00 PM

Mayor Guinta called the meeting to order.

Mayor Guinta called for the Pledge of Allegiance, this function being led by Alderman Thibault.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Clerk called the roll. There were thirteen Aldermen present.

Present: Aldermen Roy, Gatsas, Long, Duval, Osborne, O'Neil,
Lopez, Pinard, DeVries, Garrity, Smith, Thibault, Forest

Absent: Alderman Shea

Mayor Guinta advised that the purpose of the special meeting is to give residents of Manchester the opportunity to address the Board on items of concern affecting the community; that each person will be given only one opportunity to speak; that comments shall be limited to three minutes to allow all participants the opportunity to speak and any comments must be directed to the Chair.

Mayor Guinta requested that any resident wishing to speak come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized, and give their comments.

Marcia Snively, MACVB, 889 Elm Street, Manchester, NH (Re: tourism) stated: I am the Executive Director of the Manchester Area Convention and Visitors Bureau. The Bureau is basically designed to promote Manchester for meetings and conventions, sporting groups, group tours and leisure travel. I'd like to report on one group as an example that was in over Thanksgiving weekend. Thanksgiving is usually a slow time or quieter time in downtown Manchester. The Bureau, in conjunction with the local organizing committee of the American Youth Football and Cheerleading Association, working in town, the group brought in over 4,000 athletes with their family and friends totaling approximately 12,000 people. The impact of that particular group in direct spending in our area restaurants, hotels, and retail shops was approximately \$1.3 million. We continue to promote Manchester for tour groups and meetings and conventions. We'd appreciate your support and would like to know that if there are associations or sporting groups out there that would like to bring an event into Manchester, we'd be happy to assist you. You can reach us at www.manchestercvb.com. Thank you.

David Bailey, 489 Lincoln Street, Manchester, NH (Re: restricted phones) stated: I have just one problem, and that's the fact that, I don't know if you're aware of it, but if you have an unlisted telephone number, here in the City of Manchester, you pick up your phone and you try to call the Superintendent of Schools, you cannot get through. After you dial the number, you'll get a recording. We're sorry. This number does not accept private calls. I want to know why. I think it's totally unacceptable. I called yesterday because of the fact that there was a school bus driver swearing at the kids. Can anybody tell me why? Thank you.

Alderman DeVries asked Your Honor, do we have contact information in case we can get back to him?

Mayor Guinta stated you did speak with Sarah Huot yesterday, correct? We do have the contact information. I've met with him as well, personally, on the issue, and I conveyed to him that I would be calling the Superintendent's office tomorrow and getting back to him by the end of the week and letting him know how we can resolve the issue for him.

Thomas Depuy, 135 Pine Street, Manchester, NH (Re: tax exemptions for renewable energy systems) stated: Thank you for the opportunity to speak. I just wanted to mention one thing about exemptions on residential property taxes for the installment of renewable energy systems. As far as I'm aware, according to the New Hampshire Office of Environmental Planning, Manchester doesn't have exemptions allowed for this. Fifty-six other cities and towns in New Hampshire have this. Manchester, the largest city, as far as I'm aware, does not. It's a win-win situation. The taxpayer gets a modest break for making this improvement in their property, regional and local air is modestly improved, and utility companies can avoid rolling black-outs in the peak electrical use in the summertime. One good benefit, particularly with solar, is that in August or July when these utility companies are threatened with making these rolling black-outs, that's when solar is producing the most electricity - when people are using their air conditioning and have other appliances running. Nashua, the state's second largest city, allows tax exemptions for solar, wind and bio-mass home improvements. I was hoping that someone would take this up and modify a bill in Manchester to do what Nashua and fifty-five other communities have done. Thank you.

Mayor Guinta stated seeing that we do have a couple of minutes, I'd like to try to do a presentation if we can. Nathan Burditt, if you'll come forward please. Nathan's story came to my attention over the last ten days and I was very moved by it and I wanted to...he's a very humble guy and would probably prefer not to receive this recognition. But I thought what he did deserved some recognition, particularly in the times that we're in in the City. Nathan did something that I thought was exemplary. I heard about it, wanted to share it with the Aldermen and share it with the City. Nathan is a senior at Memorial High School and performed a very, what I would consider selfless and very generous act just a couple of weeks ago. He was standing outside of the Hooksett Target for 34 straight hours. As you all know, Play Station 3 went on sale across the country and there were people all across the

country waiting in line for this game toy. Thirty-four straight hours? Thirty-four straight hours; he actually got one. And then, after he bought it, decided to donate it to a classmate of his who had fallen ill – for a raffle. When I had heard the story, I thought, considering the fact that there are only so many of these that had been shipped to our country for sale, I thought that he deserved recognition for giving up what was a very important commodity to a lot of people across the country. So we decided, as a result of that, to create what I'm calling the first, and I hope the first of many, the Mayor's Good Neighbor Award. We created it in Nathan's honor and I wanted to present it to him today. It simply reads: The Good Neighbor Award presented to Nathan Burditt for exemplifying true neighborliness among his community, making the City of Manchester a better place to live by his actions. I urge all citizens of Manchester to applaud Nathan for this generosity and goodwill. Presented to you by myself this day. Thank you very much.

There being no one else present wishing to speak, on motion of Alderman Roy, duly seconded by Alderman Osborne, it was voted to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written documentation presented.

This being a special meeting of the Board, no further business was presented and on motion of Alderman Roy, duly seconded by Alderman Thibault, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk